

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The amendment to the claims filed June 6, 2008 has been received and entered. Claims 1-74, 76-83 have been cancelled, while claim 75 has been amended. Claims 75 and 84 are pending in this application.

The amendments to the specification filed June 6, 2008 and September 26, 2008 have been entered.

An examiner's amendments to the record appear below. A telephone call was made to Applicants' representative on December 15, 2008 to inform about proposed amendments to the claims. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cynthia B. Rothschild on December 16, 2008.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

Claims 1-74, 76-83 have been canceled.

Claims 75 and 84 are allowed.

Claim 75 has been replaced with the following:

Claim 75. A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 42 or SEQ ID NO: 43, wherein each sequence comprises:

(a) a prokaryotic transposase gene operably linked to a first promoter, wherein the nucleic acid sequence 3' to the first promoter comprises the Kozak sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13, the Kozak sequence being positioned so as to include at least the first codon of the transposase gene, wherein the transposase gene is modified such that a plurality of the codons of the transposase gene that encode for amino acids 2-10 of a transposase protein encoded by the transposase gene are individually modified from the wild-type sequence of cytosine or guanine at the third base position of the codon to an adenine or a thymine, such that the modification does not change the amino acid encoded by the modified codon, and wherein the first promoter is a viral or a eukaryotic promoter;

(b) one or more genes of interest operably-linked to one or more additional promoters, wherein at least one of the genes of interest encodes for proinsulin or human growth hormone; and

(c) insertion sequences recognized by a transposase encoded by the modified transposase gene, wherein the transposon insertion sequences are positioned to flank the one or more genes of interest and their operably-linked promoters.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The sequence search results show that the nucleic acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 41, SEQ ID NO: 42 and SEQ ID NO: 43 are free of prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANOOP SINGH whose telephone number is (571)272-3306. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Paras can be reached on (571) 272- 4517. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Valarie Bertoglio/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1632